

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-14 AF-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

EURE-00 SAJ-01 EB-11 INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06 OMB-01

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON ME

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET MEDIA OCTOBER 17 BEGAN TO REPORT FOREIGN CRITICISM OF U.S. AND CONTINUED TO MIX REPORTS OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL WITH INDICATIONS THAT DETENTE IS PROCEEDING NORMALLY. LITERARY GAZETTE COMMENTARY GIVES GREAT WEIGHT TO OFFICIAL MODERATION IN U.S. AND TO OBJECTIVE FACTORS FAVORING IT. END SUMMARY.

2. LITGAZ LEAD FOREIGN COMMENTARY BY FORMER WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT AND ANTI-AMERICAN POLEMICIST SAGATELYAN, SHARPLY CONTRASTING CURRENT FIGHTING WITH 1967, TAKES OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF STRUGGLE IN U.S. "BETWEEN DOVES AND HAWKS" OVER U.S. ROLE. SAGATELYAN WRITES THAT OPPONENTS OF DETENTE ARE SEEKING MAXIMAL INVOLVEMENT OF U.S. IN CONFLICT. HOWEVER, U.S. LEADERSHIP - GIVEN REALITIES OF CONFLICT (ARAB MILI-

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TARY SUCCESSES), U.S. ECONOMIC NECESSITIES (NEED FOR ARAB

OIL AND MONETARY RESERVES), AND ISOLATION OF ISRAELI POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY - IS TAKING MORE MODERATE POSITION. FORCES FAVORING DETENTE AND MODERATION ARE STRONG, HE SAYS, AND IN ACCOMPANYING BOX HE QUOTES WASHINGTON POST AND NEW YORK TIMES TO SHOW THAT PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY ARE AVOIDING ONE-SIDED APPROACH TO ENDING CONFLICT. HE CHARACTERIZES SENATOR FULBRIGHT'S ASSERTIONS ABOUT ZIONIST POLITICAL POWER IN U.S. AS UNPRECEDENTED, QUOTING "FACE THE NATION" RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS. SAGATELYAN ENDS COMMENTARY WITH ALLUSION TO LESSONS OF VIETNAM FOR U.S. RELATIONS WITH "CLIENTS" AND ASSERTS THAT ONLY POLITICALLY NAIVE WOULD IGNORE SIGNIFICANCE OF STATEMENTS BY "HIGHEST OFFICIAL FIGURES" WHO HAVE EMPHASIZED BENEFIT TO U.S. DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY OF U.S. HAVING NO INVOLVEMENT IN A WAR FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE WW11.

3. PRAVDA OCTOBER 17 REPORTS MCCLOSKEY STATEMENT THAT U.S. SUPPLYING ARMS IN ORDER TO PRESERVE MILITARY BALANCE IN ME. PRAVDA ALSO CITES AP TP EFFECT THAT U.S. IS SENDING TANKS, ARTILLARY, ROCKETS, AND PLANES AND INTENDS TO MEET ISRAELI MILITARY NEEDS. SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA OCTOBER 17 CARRIES REPORT FROM "FOREIGN WIRE SERVICES" THAT 30,000 AMCIT VOLUNTEERS ARE WAITING TO GO TO ISRAEL; TV EVENING NEWS OCTOBER 16 HAD SAME REPORT. TASS ENGLISH WIRE OCTOBER 17 REPORTS THAT U.S. HAS FLOWN 600 TRANSPORT PLANES TO ISRAEL VIA AZORES.

4. PRAVDA REPORT OF SADAT SPEECH (TASS) NOTES HIS STRONG CRITICISM OF U.S. POSITION ON ME AND HIS ASSERTION THAT EGYPT NOT INTIMIDATED BY U.S. DECISION TO RESUPPLY ISRAELIS. PRAVDA ALSO REPLAYS ARTICLE BY CP ISRAEL GENERAL SECRETARY VILNER ASSERTING THAT MEIR GOVERNMENT CAN PURSUE EXPANSIONIST POLICY ONLY BECAUSE OF U.S. SUPPORT AND CHARGING THAT WAR IS BEING WAGED ON BEHALF OF "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" AS WELL AS ISRAELI AIMS.

5. ME NEWS IS CARRIED ON PRAVDA INNER PAGES ALONG WITH ARTICLES CONVEYING UPBEAT VIEW OF DETENTE, E.G. COMMENTARY ON HONEKKER VISIT TO MONGOLIA HIGHLIGHTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BREZHNEV'S TRIPS TO WEST, ARTICLE ON PROGRESS OF U.S.-SOVIET MEDICAL EXCHANGES, AND REPORT OF SOVIET SHIP VISIT TO ITALY. FINALLY, ALL MAJOR DAILIES CARRY FRONT-PAGE REPORTS OF MEETING WITH DANISH PRIME MINISTER, FEATURING BREZHNEV'S CONVICTION THAT SOVIET-DANISH COOPERATION WILL DEVELOP IN FURTHERANCE OF RELAXATION OF TENSIONS AND STRENGTHENING OF EUROPEAN PEACE AND SECURITY.

6. PRAVDA FRONT PAGE LEAD EDITORIAL, TAKING AS TEXT
THE APPROPRIATE CC SLOGANS FOR NOVEMBER 7 ANNIVERSARY,
EMPHASIZES SOVIET SOLIDARITY WITH NATIONAL LIBERATION
STRUGGLE AND IN PARTICULAR WITH ARAB PEOPLES FIGHTING
AGAINST ISRAELI AGGRESSORS.
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